ARTICLES

TO BE ENQVIRED OF

within the Dioces of Peterborough in the vi-

TATION OF THE REVEREND

FATHER IN GOD, RICHARD BY

THE PERMISSION OF GOD, LORD

BISHOP OF PETERBOROVGH THIS

present yeare, 1600. And presentment to be made thereof by the

Churchwardens and Sidemen for that purpose lawefully appoin-

ted, in visitations, Sinods, or els where, within the dioceſſe

afore ſaid, at any other time when occaſion

ſhall be offered. Giuing in an anſwer

to euerie article in par-

ticular.

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PRINTED, 1600.

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The Tenour of the oathe ministred to t Churchwardens and sidemen.

Ou shall sweare, that all fauour, hatred, m hope of reward or gaine, feare of displea and all other vnlawefull affection set a shall vpon due consideration of these art giuen you in charge, present euery such p of or within your parish, as hath committ made any offence or fault mentioned in the se articles, or which are vehemently pected or defamed of any such offence or fault wherein you shall vprightlie, neither of malice presenting any contrary to trueth corruptly sparing to present any, or to conceale the trueth bu this action God before your eies, with an earnest zeale to main trueth, and to suppresse vice: so helpe you God in Iesus Christ, a the contents of this booke.

FIrſt, whether your parſon, vicar, or curat be reſident continually vpon his benefice, doing his dutie in preaching, reading, and duly minis-ſtering the holy Sacraments, and whether he hath any more benefices or cures then one, if he haue, what be their names, and in what cuntrie they are?

2. Item, whether your parſon, vicar, or cu-be charge fathers, and mothers, maſters, and gouernours of h, to bring them vp in ſome vertuous ſtudie and occupation, & ther doth he euery ſondaie and holiday halfe an houre at the before euening praier, call for, heare, and inſtruct al the children, miſes, and ſeruants of both ſexes that be of convenient age in the is praier, the tenne commandements, and in the articles of be-and diligently examine them, teaching them the catechiſme ſet by authoritie: and whether for that purpoſe, he doth take the s of them all, and by courſe call certaine of them by name, euery ay and holiday to come to learne the ſame catechiſme, and whe-the Churchwardens and ſworn-men doe aſsiſt the miniſter, as oth preſcribe them in that godly action.

Item, whether ſuch benificed men, as be lawfully abſent from benefices, doe leaue their cures, to an honeſt, learned, and godly , lawfully authorized, teaching you wholeſome doctrine: and ther you haue the Queens Iniunctions read quarterly or not?

Item, whether your parſon, vicar, or curate, doe comfort and ort you to the reading of the bible at conuenient times, as being ery liuely worde of God, and the ſpeciall foode of mans ſoule, whether he doth preach in your Church quarterly, and month-s is appointed by her Maieſties Iniunctions: and whether he ſuffred any to preach the holy ſcriptures in your Church or pel, but ſuch as haue bene lawfully licenced thervnto in writing?

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5. Item, whether you haue morning and euening praier in your Church or chappel vpon such daies as are appointed by authoritie and whether common prayer be vsed and said by your parson vicar or curat, in your Church or chappell distinctly, reuerently, the sacraments duely administred in such order as is set forth the lawes of this realme, at due and conuenient times and hours and whether your minister stand in such place of your church chappell as the people may best heare him, and whether vpon wednesdaies and fridaies, (not beeing holidaies) the letany and other prayers appointed for the daie be said accordingly.

6. Item, whether your parson, vicar, or curate, in the reading praiers, administring of the sacraments, or burying of the dead marrying, doth weare such ornaments as by lawe are appointed, whether he doth obserue the booke of common praier, as by authoritie it is established.

7. Item, whether they doe in their sermons praie for the Queenes most excellent Maiestie, giuing her Maiestie her vsuall title and according to the order prescribed in the Iniunctions, exhorting the people to obedience to her Maiestie: and whether they speake any thing in deprauing of the booke of common praier: and when you haue no sermons, whether haue you anie homilies redde, such as that purpose by authoritie are set forth and appointed.

8. Item, whether your minister beeing vnmarried, keepeth in house any defamed or suspected woman, or beeing married, hath made choice of such a one as is of godly zeale and of modest & honest behauiour, and whether before he so married her, he had the allowance of the bishop, and of two iustices of the peace, according as her Maiesties Iniunctions is appointed?

9. Item, whether haue you suffered any to serue your cure, but such as are by authoritie appointed & licenced thervnto.

10. Item, whether your minister doth admonish the parishoners that they ought not to presume to receiue the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, before they can say perfectly the Lords prayer the articles of the faith, and the ten commandements in English.

11. Item, whether your parson, vicar, or curate, hath bought the benefices, or come by them by fraude, guile, deceit, or Simonie:

whether he hath no benefices or other Ecclesiasticall promotions thē ought to haue, not hauing sufficient licenses and dispensation ther-to, and howe many they be?

Item, whether your minister be a common hawker, hunter, tarder, dicer, swearer, drunkard, or vseth to resort to any alehouse, Ta-verns, or to any suspected places, not beseeming his place and calling, to giue any euill example of life, whereby the word of God, and religion now receiued may be euill spoken of.

Item, whether your minister hath receiued into your church chappell any excommunicate person, before he brought vnto him the certificat of his absolution & restoring to the Church, & whe-ther he hath receiued any woman deliuered of child begot in forni-cation to her thanksgiuing in the Church before shee hath publikely reconciled her selfe in such order as by the Officer in that behalfe hath been to her prescribed?

Item, whether your minister haue admitted to the holy Com-munion any open and notorious fornicator and adulterer, or euill li-ued by whome the congregation is offended, without due penance done, for the satisfying of the congregation, or any enuious or malicious persons out of charitie, or any excommunicate person to be such as were as godfather or godmother at the baptizing of a childe, or a-ny that haue not before receiued the holy communion, and is not a-ble to recite the Lords prayer, the ten Commandements, and the arti-cles of beleefe, and to answere to the same being required, and who be they that haue thus intruded themselues?

Item, whether the church of your parish be now vacant or no? who is the Patron thereof, howe long it hath beene voide, and who doth receiue the tithes, oblations and other commodities, during the time of the vacation, and by what authoritie?

Item, whether your church and chauncell with your parso-nage and vicaredge houses be in good repaire, your churchyard well fenced and cleane kept: & whether haue you a conuenient pulpit well set within your Church: a comely decent communion table on a frame, with a faire linnen cloath to lay vpon the same, and some coue-ring silke, buckerome or such like, for the cleane keeping thereof: a faire and comely communion cup of siluer, and a couer to the same

and a decent large surpleſſe with ſleeues.

17. Item, whether haue you in your pariſh Church or chappel one booke of the whole bible in the largeſt volume in Engliſh, a communion booke not being torne nor rent, the two tombes of homilies the paraphraſes of Eraſmus in Engliſh, the table of the ten commandements and the Queens Maieſties Iniunctions, and all other books appointed to be had by lawefull authoritie?

18. Item, whether you haue a Regiſter booke in parchmẽt to write in all Chriſtenings, weddings, and burials, and whether thoſe Chriſtenings, weddings, and burialls be diligently noted therein, and whether your miniſter euerie Sabboth daie after morning or euening prair doth diſtinctly read in the Church, the names of all ſuch as haue been the weeke before either baptized, married, or buried, and whether the miniſter and Churchwardens do ſet their handes to euerie leaf of this booke, and whether you haue a cheſt with three locks where in the ſaid booke is ſafely kept the miniſter keeping one key, and each of the Churchwardens another, and that you deliuer into the office of Regiſterſhip of the Reuerend father the Lord biſhop of this Dioces copie of all that haue beene baptized, married, and buried within your pariſh within a moneth after Eaſter nowe laſt paſt, euer ſince Eaſter Anno Domini 1599. And whether haue you a ſtrong cheſt for the poore, with three lockes and three keies to the ſame, and whether your miniſter doth mooue and exhort the people to beſtowe their almes and charitable deuotion vpon their poore neighboures.

19. Item, whether there be any in your pariſh which do not keep holy the Sabboth daie, as is commanded and appointed vnto them, any that vſe any paſtime or gaming abroade in their houſes, or take hand any worke or labour vpon the Sabboth daie or holiday (except on the holiday not beeing the Sabboth daie in harueſt after diuine vpon neceſsitie:) or any that ſit in the ſtreets, alehouſe, taueme, churchyard in time of diuine praier, preaching, or reading of the milies, and what be their names?

20. Item, whether your Churchwardens haue yerely giuen an compt of the Church goods committed to their charge, and of receipts and expences, and whether they haue ſold any bells, lead

Church goodes without consent of the Ordinarie first had in writing, and whether they haue imployed all such goodes, receipts, & summes of money to the vse of the Church or no? And whether the Churchwardens and sworn-men in former yeares, haue of any priuate corrupt affection concealed any crime or disorder done in their times and haue not presented the same? And if so? then what faults were they so concealed, and what were the names of such Churchwardens and sworn-men so concealing the same, and what are the names of such offenders?

21. Item, whether all in your parish which be of sufficient yeres & discretion do receiue the holy Communion kneeling, thrise in the yeare at the least, whereof Easter to be one?

22. Item, whether any in your parish haue molested or interrupted your minister in time of diuine prayer, administration of the sacraments, preaching, or in time of Catechisme, or at any other time vsed any reuiling or vnseemely speeches against him, or haue aided, incouraged, or set on any so to doe, and what be their names?

23. Item, whether haue your Churchwardens and sworn-men aided your minister in his office and function from time to time, and whether they haue done their diligence to bring such to the Church as stand gazing and talking in the Churchyard, and frequent and lurk in alehouses or tipling houses in the time of diuine seruice or sermon: and whether they haue beene carefull and diligent to see good order and silence kept in the Church during the time of sermons and seruice and whether they haue diligently noted the names of all such parties on daies and holidaies as haue beene absent from diuine seruice at any time, and after admonition giuen them, denounce them to the Ordinarie: and whether the forfeiture of 12. pence for euery such offence be leuied by the Churchwardens of the parish where such offence shall be done, to the vse of the poore of the same parish, out of the goodes, landes, and tenements of such offenders, by way of distresse?

24. Item whether any inholders or alehouse-keepers in your parish, doe vse to sell any meate or drinke in time of common prayer, preaching, or reading of the homilies or scriptures?

25. Item, whether there be any in your parish that be suspected to

be reconciled to the *Pope* his religion: any maſsing prieſts, Reconciler, Ieſuits, ſeminaries, or other, which haue receiued authoritie from the *Romiſh* Church: any papiſts or recuſants, or any that goe about to deprаue the religion nowe eſtabliſhed, and that maintaine hereſies, inchantments, witchcrafts, ſorceries, or ſuch like, and whether any vſe excelsiue ringing on All Saints euen, and what be their names?

26. Item, whether there be any in your pariſh that haue married within the degrees forbidden, any which beeing diuorced doe inhabit or keep company together: any beeing married that haue left their wiues: any man that hath two wiues: any woman that hath two husbands, any which haue priuate contracts without witnes: any that deferre the ſolemnization of matrimony lawfully contracted, any that do hinder the ſame, any that haue contracted themſelues without conſent of parents, tutors, or gouernours, or any which haue been married, or contracted matrimonie betweene themſelues without ſolemne publiſhing of the banes: any that haue beene married in any priuate houſe or chamber, or other ſecret place, or at any vnlawfull time or place, who married them, who were the parties ſo married, and who were preſent at the marriage expreſsing their names and ſurnames.

27. Item, whether doe any phiſitions or chirurgions practiſe phiſicke or chirurgerie within your pariſh that is not thereunto licenſed by the Lord biſhop of this Dioces?

28. Item, whether any perſon or perſons within your pariſh haue committed vſurie contrary to the acte of *Parliament* made againſt vſurie, and what be the names of ſuch vſurers, and what is the manner of their vſury?

29. Item, whether there be any in your pariſh that miniſter the goodes of thoſe that be dead without lawefull authoritie, or any that ſuppreſſe, change, forge, or hinder the performance of the teſtament or laſt will of the deade, or any Executors that hath not fulfilled the Teſtators will, eſpecially ſuch as haue not diſcharged ſuch legacies as were bequeathed to the Church, or to Orphanes, or to high waies, or ſuch godly vſes and what be their names?

30. Item, whether the Chauncellour, Commiſſaries, or any other

vſing

g Ecclesiasticall Iurisdiction in this Dioces their Registers, or actu-
s, apparators, or somners, haue at any time winked at, and suffered
adulteries, fornications, incests or other faultes or offences to passe
remaine vnpunished and vncorrected, for money, rewards, bribes,
sure, friendship, or any other partiall or affectionate respect, and
at be their names.

. Item, what schoolemasters haue you within your parish, that
ch either openly or priuatly in any schoole, Gentlemans house, or
where, and whether be they of good and sincere religion, and li-
sed by the bishop of the Dioces or his Officers, to teach in writing
er his seale: and whether be they diligent in teaching and bring-
vp youth, and to instruct them in godlines and vertue; and whe-
teach they any thing contrarie to the religion now godlilie esta-
hed, or doe not cause their children to resort vnto the Church, to
re diuine seruice and sacraments?

. Item, whether all fathers and housholders of your parish, cause
ir children, seruants, and prentises both mankind and womankind,
ing aboue sixe yeares of age to come to church on sondaies and
daies, at the times to them appointed, or at the least such or so ma-
of them as the minister shall appoint, and there diligently and obe-
ntly to heare, and to be ordered by the minister, that they may be
ructed in the groundes and principles of true religion, and what
the names of those that doe not cause their children, seruants, and
ntises to come to the Church to be instructed & examined, or the
es of the parties themselnes that haue absented themselues from
godly exercise.

3. Item, whether for the putting of the churchwardens & sworn
n the better in remembrance of their dutie in obseruing & noting
h as offend in not comming to diuine seruice, your minister doe
nly euerie sonday after he hath read the second lesson at morning
d euening praier monish and warne the Churchwardens and
ommen to looke to their charge in this beleefe, & to obserue who
end in absenting themselues negligently or wilfully from the parish
urch or chappell, or vnreuerently as is aforesaid vse themselues in
e of diuine seruice.

34. Item whether the minister and clarke with the Churchwardens and certaine of the substantiall men of the parish in rogation week walke about their parish, according to the Queens Maiesties Injunctions, and whether at their returne to the Church, they make their common praiers?

35. Item, whether the parish clarke be appointed according to the auncient custome of the parish, and whether he be obedient to the minister, especially in the time of celebration of diuine seruice, of the sacraments, or of any preparation thereunto: and whether he keepe the bookes and ornaments of the Church faire and cleane, and cause the church and quier, the communion table, the pulpit, and the font, to be made decent and cleane against the seruice time, the holy communion, sermon & baptisme?

36. Item, whether you knowe or haue hard by common fame, any that liue viciously in fornication, adulterie, Incest, drunkennes, vncleanesse, bawdes, ribaulds, harbourers, maintainers, or receiuers of any such lewd persons: or any which carry, send away, or conuey such persons before they be punished, or vehemently suspected of any such faults.

37. Item, whether you knowe or haue heard by common fame, any woman which hath beene gotte with childe or liued incontinently before shee was married, who hath not as yet satisfied the congregation, or of any which fight, chid, or brawle in Church or Churchyard, and what be their names.

38. Item, whether any midwiues baptize children within your parish and what be their names?

39. Item, whether you knowe or haue heard by common fame any other crime worthie presentment, the reformation whereof belongeth to the Ecclesiasticall court. And if you do, you shall as well present them which nowe come to your memory, as those which shall hereafter come to your knowledge?

FINIS.

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